

LATE NEWS FROM THE WRITING AND PUBLISHING WORLD

BOOKS TO GRATIFY
TASTE AND FANCYDulac's Oriental Effects—Kay
Nielsen's Fantastic Decora-
tions—Other Books.

MRS. DE MORGAN'S FAIRIES

"Alice" Once More Pictured—
Books of All Kinds, Imag-
inative and Scientific.

Once more Edmund Dulac has made an incursion into the Arabian Nights in "Sindbad the Sailor" (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company) with results gratifying to the artistic taste and to the fancy alike. Besides the title story he illustrates Aladdin, the Three Calenders and the Sleeper awakened; the coloring is exquisite, and in the pictures the artist shows his humor not only in the figures but also in playing with Western ideas of oriental art. He gives a marked Chinese touch to the Aladdin illustrations and holds to Persian traditions in those in which Haroun al Rashid figures. His monsters will satisfy juvenile ideals. He has not tried to draw correct Eastern pictures for the tales; he has simply taken the Arabian Nights as every child's fancy and put them into lovely pictures that will satisfy old and young alike. The book is one of the handsomest of this season's holiday offerings and is a worthy companion to Mr. Dulac's "Ali Baba."

A different class of stories, the northern tales that Sir G. W. Dasent translated, has been selected for illustration by Kay Nielsen in "East of the Sun, West of the Moon" (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company). The pictures are striking both in coloring and composition; they are fantastic and decorative in their peculiar style and are very well done. It calls for a certain familiarity with modern eccentricities in art to appreciate them as illustrations. There are many interesting drawings in the text besides. The artist has character and his pictures are more interesting than is usual in holiday editions.

A beautiful example of book making is "India's Love Lyrics," by Laurence Hope, illustrated by Byron Shaw (William Heinemann; John Lane Company). The large quarto page allows the display of admirable type and the decorations are in excellent taste. The colored pictures are conscientious and successful efforts to render Indian types and Indian ideas of coloring; they are very interesting, and if they are not always attractive the fault is India's and not the artist's. Mr. Hope's adaptations are, for the most part, very good, but his muse halts at times, too many poetic lines and images are marred by prosaic and commonplace turns to the phrases.

Perhaps Sir J. M. Barrie was not altogether at his best in "The Admirable Crichton," which Hugh Thompson has illustrated for a holiday book (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company), but those who enjoy him may like to have his play in this form. Mr. Thompson's pictures are always pretty; here he has to deal with modern costumes, and many of the colored illustrations are very like fashion plates. The drawings in the text are simpler and more satisfactory. The book is a sturdy quarto.

A pleasant account of a trip to Spain by A. C. Michael is illustrated with twenty-six paintings by the author in "An Artist in Spain" (Hodder and Stoughton; George H. Doran Company). If the text tells nothing that a new and dwells somewhat on trivial matters that seem out of place in a book so sumptuous, it will at any rate revive memories of picturesque places and traveler's emotions. The figure paintings are capital; they seem to be Mr. Michael's strong point. The landscapes are not so satisfactory; apparently he sought for startling color effects and managed to secure some that will attract attention. The book is a quarto; the pictures will make it welcome to all who have seen or who love Spain.

BOOKS OF INFORMATION.

A small boy is instructed in the various processes involved in a great industry in "The Story of Iron," by Elizabeth L. Samuel (The Penn Publishing Company). He also hears something about the people who helped on the production of steel, but the information is kept within bounds.

Various curious things made with cardboard and other easily obtained materials are described by Mary E. Griggs in "When Mother Lets Us Make Gifts" (Moffat, Yard and Company). The object apparently is to keep little hands busy and little minds out of mischief.

A pretty little story, written to aid a deserving form of philanthropy, is "The Fresh Air Child" (Clarendon H. Book Company). It describes the happiness a sweet child in the country may have and may give.

Brief and simple descriptions of railroads, the machinery, rolling stock, bridges and all sorts of matters pertaining to travel by rail are to be found in "The Wonder Book of Railways" (Frederick A. Stokes Company), by Harry Golding. The illustrations are chiefly from photographs and are good and interesting. The book is a British production, so that some of the notations will seem queer to American children.

Matter of fact, scientific information of what may be done on a desert island by a person fully equipped with knowledge of natural history and also supplied with a jackknife is provided by A. Hyatt Verrill in "An American Crusade" (Dodd, Mead and Company). The young man shows great ingenuity in struggling with nature at first, but the required touch of romance is added later by the discovery of a smuggler's cave and pirate gold. The island is situated in West Indian waters. The story would be better without the author's didactic introduction and his desire to instruct. He has worked out to his own satisfaction the problem of what may be done in case the right man finds himself in Robinson Crusoe's predicament.

Led on by an ingenious fairy tale, children are induced to try their hands at all sort of contrivances, which are accurately described in "The Island of Make Believe" (The Page Company). It is a sort of glorified continuation of kindergarten games. The colored pictures by Emma Troth are clever and pretty.

An amusement of boyhood that has turned into a hobby for adults and a branch of trade is described in the somewhat unmethodical manner that afflicts British writers for youth in "The Boy's Book of Stamp Collecting" by Douglas B. Armstrong (Frederick A. Stokes Company). The author tells many interesting tales and supplies considerable information which will be valuable to American boys. There are many illustrations.

A more scientific and more important subject is explained to youth by Elizabeth Hawkes in "The Boy's Book of Astronomy" (Frederick A. Stokes Company). The author does not talk down to his readers but endeavors to make clear and simple statements of fact. The book has many illustrations, some in color.

Luckily Mrs. Henry Head's "How to Enjoy Pictures" (Frederick A. Stokes Company) is not as aesthetic or abstract as the title suggests. It is practically a series of brief biographies of painters, especially those who are appreciated in England, which stops short with the beginning of the nineteenth century. There are many colored reproductions of masterpieces, which are far from satisfactory.

The "Stories of Greece and Rome" that Hilda Johnston relates (Longmans, Green and Company) are not historical but merely the legends of Homer and Virgil. The author tells them again pleasantly. The illustrations by D. M. Payne are appropriate. It is a very pretty little book.

CALENDARS AND CARDS.

The waning of the year and the approach of the holiday season bring along the customary provision of ornamental calendars and Christmas cards. Those who have prepared these

CYRIL HARCOURT, AUTHOR OF
"FIRST COUSIN TO A DREAM"
(Lane)HERBERT ADAMS GIBBONS
AUTHOR OF "THE NEW MAP
OF EUROPE" (Century)ONE OF W. HEATH ROBINSON'S
ILLUSTRATIONS FOR "A
MIDSUMMER NIGHTS DREAM"

poets, living and dead. Even when the pieces are fairly well known the quotations are too long; it is a dictionary and not an anthology he has in hand. He is far too indulgent to platitudes and is not sufficiently versed in the expressions of the street. He has done his work very respectably, however, and the new "Bartlett" will be welcome as an improvement on the last.

The excellent history of early German art by Mrs. Helen A. Dickinson, Ph. D., "German Masters of Art," noticed recently, is published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company.

In "The Songs, Hymns and Prayers of the Old Testament" (Charles Scribner's Sons) Dr. Charles Foster Kent has arranged the poetical portions of the Old Testament according to the modern ideas. The important portion of the book is the treatise on Hebrew poetry with the commentary on the divisions he has made. The arrangement of the passages in poetical form with the notes accompanying will be a great aid to Bible students.

The curious "Introductions to the Prose Romances, Plays and Comedies of Edward Bulwer, Lord Lytton," by E. G. Bell (Walter M. Hill, Chicago), may serve to make readers turn again to an author of extraordinary versatility who wrote much the sketch of Bulwer's life is decidedly unfavorable to his wife. The comments on the novels and plays apply to Bulwer the criterion and phrases usually employed with classics and the effect is rather ludicrous.

In the very interesting introduction to "Hans Breitmann's Ballads," by Charles G. Leland (Houghton, Mifflin Company), Mrs. Elizabeth Roberts Pennell tells us how amused her uncle was that his chance for fame should rest on "Hans Breitmann" and not on the studies which he took so much more seriously. She also tells of the perplexities of seekers for first editions. This edition is very complete. It contains all the known Breitmann matter; its typographical dress is beautiful and would have made the author's heart glad.

Another memorial volume of essays by the late William Graham Sumner, LL. D., is issued by the Yale University Press, New Haven. "The Collected Essays of William Graham Sumner," edited by Prof. Albert Galloway Keller, Ph. D. The essays are largely sociological and many have never been published before. For Prof. Sumner had a habit of writing out his ideas on matters that interested him and often saw no reason for publishing them. The editor writes a sympathetic sketch of his life and prints at the end the memorial addresses by Yale graduates after Prof. Sumner's death.

In "Poetry" (E. P. Dutton and Company) the editor, Mr. Charles Scribner, has defined the indelible with a good deal of precision. He makes a fine study of erudition.

OTHER BOOKS.

For forty years now John Bartlett's "Familiar Quotations" has been a trusted companion to all writers who have a regard for accuracy and the salvation of the crowd of speakers and authors pressed for an apt tag to their hurried effusions. While from the start a large proportion of the contents could hardly be called familiar even to educated men, constant use has brought many of the quotations to the knowledge of the general public. The book has increased in value with each successive edition and now appears in a tenth enlarged edition, the first since Mr. Bartlett's death, prepared by Nathan Haskell Doole (Little, Brown and Company). The enlargement amounts to 200 pages of new quotations and 100 pages of index, so that the volume now contains nearly 1,500 pages, but by the use of this power is kept in convenient shape. Mr. Doole is hardly the ideal editor for the work he has undertaken, but he has respected Mr. Bartlett's work sufficiently to leave it untouched. In the additional matter he confines himself pretty closely to poetry, a fault from which Bartlett was not free, and quotes liberally from the modern lesser

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The Boston News Bureau Company, Boston.

"Bound About Home," The Rev. P. J. Gorman, The Ave Maria Press, New York.

Literature and Imagery, John C. Underwood, (Mitchell Kennerly, New York).

The Truth of Christianity, Lieut. Col. W. H. Thurston, D. S. O., (G. P. Putnam's Sons).

Little Sir Galahad, Phoebe Gray (Small, Maynard and Company, Boston).

The Secret of Happiness, Mary T. Waggoner, (The Ave Maria Press, New York).

Those of His Own Household, Rene Bazin, (The Devin-Adair Company, New York).

Beauty and Sticks, Philip Gibbs, (The Devin-Adair Company, New York).

Makers of Modernity, Hermann Hagedorn, (Macmillan).

Barny, Dittus, Wise, Garman and Mark Perry King, (Mitchell Kennerly).

Americans, John Curtis Underwood, (The Devin-Adair Company, New York).

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